

CITY OF MEDINA 2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Effective, equitable partnership with WSDOT

Medina is a vital gateway connecting Seattle to the Eastside regional economic hub of technology sector, healthcare, and other major employers via the SR520 multimodal transportation system serving transit, cyclists, pedestrians, and cars. Three significant, ongoing, unresolved issues require WSDOT's continuing, good-faith engagement to protect the viability of this crucial regional corridor and mitigate local environmental impacts:

- (1) The noise disturbance caused by design flaws in SR520 expansion joints,
- (2) Responsibility for the ongoing maintenance and liability of WSDOT's SR520 lid structures in the Points Communities (City of Clyde Hill, Town of Hunts Point, City of Medina, and Town of Yarrow Point), and
- (3) The SR520/Evergreen Point Road multiuse path underpass.

The City of Medina strongly encourages the Legislature's intervention to ensure WSDOT's equitable commitment to the SR520 Project's unresolved impact mitigation through both policy directives and appropriations.

Balancing the impact of legislative policy goals on cities

In recent sessions, the Legislature has advanced bold initiatives on statewide priorities such as housing, affordability, and environmental protection. However, cities face growing challenges as these policies are developed and implemented in isolation – along with other unfunded mandates – without adequate consideration of cumulative, conflicting impacts.

As examples, State mandates may:

- Simultaneously require wider critical area buffers while also calling for higher housing density even as local efforts seek to preserve and enhance tree canopy, or
- Expand housing supply targets that increase utility demands even as new environmental standards raise wastewater treatment requirements.

These overlapping policies create tension between affordability, capacity, and environmental quality.

The City of Medina urges the Legislative and Executive branches to:

- (1) Adopt a more coordinated, systems-thinking approach to policy development and implementation,
- (2) Provide cities – especially smaller cities – with the tools and flexibility needed to balance competing state objectives, and

(3) Appropriate funds for local planning and capital projects to assist small cities to comply with unfunded State mandates

Important Priority Capital Projects

- Planning for and construction of diverse housing types to address population displacement and provide for aging-in-place
- Replacement of end-of-useful-life, weight-limited bridges on Overlake Drive
- Undergrounding electrical infrastructure, especially in areas susceptible to outages
- Funding acquisition of land for conservation, open space, and public use
- Funding electric vehicle public charging infrastructure

The City of Medina endorses the Legislative priorities of:

ARCH – A Regional Coalition for Housing

AWC – The Association of Washington Cities

ETP – Eastside Transportation Partnership

SCA – Sound Cities Association

About the City of Medina:

Medina is a family-friendly, diverse and inclusive community on the shores of Lake Washington. With parks and open spaces, Medina is a quiet and safe small city, with active and highly-engaged residents. Medina honors its heritage while preserving its natural, sylvan environment and resources for current and future generations.

The City of Medina serves a population of 2,915 with an annual operating budget of \$8.3 million. Approximately 18%-19% of Medina's households are renter-occupied, and 19% of Medina's residents are aged 65 or older, with 10.9% of those seniors living alone. Fixed incomes, limited housing options, and rising regional living costs drive significant affordability, aging-in-place, and displacement challenges for our residents, necessitating local solutions enabled by innovative, positive collaboration with state and regional partners.



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